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## BOOK REVIEWS.

THE TRUE STORY OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH. By Katherine Pearson Woods, author of "Metzerott, Shoemaker." New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1901. Pp. 382.

(Communicated)

In *The American Historical Review*, for July, 1902, is a critique, by W. M. West, of "The True Story of Capt. John Smith," by Katherine Pearson Woods. Mr. West (p. 763) says: "Statements that England derived her theory of divine right from Spain (p. 91); that under the charter of 1609 the Governor of Virginia was appointed for life (p. 319); that when the Pilgrims planned their voyage they intended to settle within the limits of the Plymouth Council (p. 357), do not inspire confidence in the author's historical preparation."

The theory of "divine right" in England shall be left to Cromwell and the Revolution of 1688. If the history of that great country contains some notice of James I and Sir Robert Filmer, it also does of Hampden and Sidney and Locke.

As to the tenure for life under the charter of 1609: That charter does not expressly say so; but in Articles XIII and XIV, it confers *very large powers* upon the Council resident in London. The King first appointed and then enlarged that Council and they commissioned Lord Delaware as Governor. Dr. Alexander Brown has, in his *Genesis of the United States*, given us that Commission (printed, as he says, for the first time), and in it (p. 378) is the following passage: "Now Know Yee that We his Majesties said Councell upon good advise & deliberation & upon notice had of the Wisedome, valour, circumspection & of the virtue & especiall sufficiency of the Right Honorable Sir Thomas West, Knight Lord La Warr, to be in principall place of authoritie & Government in the said Collonie & finding in him the said Lord La Warr propensness & willingness to further & advance the good of the said Plantation, by virtue of the authoritie unto us given by the said Letters Pattents, have nominated, made, ordained & appointed & by these presents do nominate, make, ordaine & appoint the said Sir Thomas West, Knight Lord La War, to be principall Governor, Commander & Captain Generall both by Land & Sea over the said Collonie & all other Collonies planted or to be planted in Virginia, \* \* \* \* *for & during the term of his natural life*, & do hereby ordaine & declare that he the said Lord La Warr *during his life* shall be stiled & called by the name & title of Lord Governor & Captain Generall of Virginia & of the Collonie & Collonies there planted or to be planted," &c, &c.

The Council would not have been allowed to contravene the charter by this commission. Indeed, they aver that it is by authority given them in said charter. Then, was not the author accurate in her statement, p. 359?

In regard to the Pilgrim's *plan* of their voyage, many good authorities might be adduced. But one will, from its peculiar character, be sufficient. In his later work, *The First Republic*, Dr. Alexander Brown gives, as far as practicable from the existing records, the protracted negotiations between the Virginia Company and the agents of the Pilgrims; and there were numerous trips, on the subject, between London and Leyden. Sir Edwyn Sandys warmly espoused the cause of the Pilgrims and tried to get King James and the Archbishop of Canterbury to grant them toleration. In about three years all obstacles on both sides were removed and Dr. Brown, p. 387, says:

"The official note of shipping, etc, sent during the first term of the Earl of Southampton as treasurer, prepared to be read at the Easter term of the Virg'a court, 1621, states that the Bona Nova of 200 tons with 120 persons; the Elizabeth of 40 tons, with 20 persons; & the Mayflower of 140 tons, with 100 persons, were sent by the Va. Company to Virginia, in August, 1620. The Mayflower sailed Aug. 15, but returned & finally put to sea on September 16. In sending the Pilgrims to Virginia, Sandys was carrying out his plan for setting up a government founded on civil & religious liberty in the new world."

If I understand what Mr. West means by "the limits of the Plymouth Council," the Pilgrims *did plan* their voyage to be within those limits. Because they were not within "the limits of the Plymouth Council," *i. e.*, below 45° of north Latitude, they had a difficulty about their lands and were compelled to make a new arrangement with the New England Company, p. 424.

In offering the above notes no discourtesy is meant towards Mr. West, who, no doubt, intended and desired to be accurate.

When the foregoing was penned for the *American Historical Review*, to correct *therein* the mistakes which Mr. West had made in his charges against the Woods Life of Capt. John Smith, I confess that I knew nothing of said book or its authoress. My sole object was to vindicate the truth of history. But I have since seen the work and learned, from its dedication, that the writer of it is the granddaughter of an old friend of mine, the Rev. James D. McCabe, D. D., the brother of another friend, the Rev. John C. McCabe.

Mr. West pursues her quite savagely and not only seeks to overthrow her history, but berates her style. It is highly probable that she is as defensible in some other points as she is in the two presented above. The commission of Lord Delaware under the said charter is absolutely

conclusive on the first point, though historians might be cited to the same purport.

In regard to *plan* of the Pilgrims, the rejection by the *American Review* has induced me to look for other authorities, besides Dr. Alexander Brown.

*The Pilgrim Fathers*, by Daniel Wilson, F. S. A., Scot., New York and London (and published along with a *History of the Puritans*) on p. 356 says: "It was with the latter (the Plymouth Company) that the Pilgrims of Leyden negotiated their scheme of colonization. The enterprise had already been maturely weighed."

Again, on p. 361: "The place of their destination was the Hudson river, which lay to the South and the patent which they had obtained under the Virginia Company's seal, at considerable cost and after long vexation and delay, was of less value in that northern Latitude than the sheep-skin on which it was engrossed." \* \* \* "The Pilgrims then urged the Captain to pursue his course southward. But the Dutch had resolved to establish settlements of their own in those parts and had bribed the commander to frustrate the colonists in that respect." See also Bancroft, I, 304, 5, 9; Fisk's U. S., 88. There is one other thing that is irrefragable. The very constitution or covenant which the Pilgrims drew up and signed says *on its face* that they had "undertaken a voyage to plant their first colony in the Northerly parts of Virginia;" not the parts north of Virginia, but the northerly parts of Virginia, Wilson, p. 363.

By both charters (1607 and 1609) Virginia was limited from 35° to 45° of north Latitude and the London Company and the Plymouth Company were in 1609 to be 200 miles apart. Whatever negotiations the Leyden agents may have had with Sandys, of the London Company, they knew very well the relations between that and the Plymouth Company and the northern boundary of Virginia, and when Pierce, I think, took his patent for his fellow Pilgrims, he stipulated that they should be "within the limits of the Plymouth Company," as the Wood's book avers.

One word more in regard to the "Divine Right" of kingship in England: It is not necessary to send any monarch of that country to Spain, or any where else, for model or exemplar. The theory of "Divine Right" could spring up from the principles in the nature of any monarch who overvalued his prerogative and undervalued the rights and privileges of his subjects. King John and Runymede were anterior to the Phillips of Spain.

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